

Minutes approved August 20, 2014

**Town Meeting Coordinating Committee
Minutes for Tuesday, June 17, 2014, 3:00-5:00 PM
First Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall**

Present: Peggy Roberts, Mary Streeter, Alan Powell, Nonny Burack, Melissa Perot, Patricia Holland.

Absent: TracyLee Boutilier.

Visiting: Jim Pistrang, Walter Wolnik.

Peggy called the meeting to order at 3:10 pm.

1. Meeting with Town Moderator: Our Town Moderator Jim Pistrang reported on his experiences with the recent 2014 Town Meeting.

2. Public Comments: He said several people told him about nasty private comments on meeting events by seat neighbors. He plans to speak to this issue at the next TM and remind people that such comments are inappropriate. Mary noted there were four times when he incorrectly heard the voice votes on calling the question, and she wondered if there was a problem with audibility. He did not think there was a problem.

3. Electronic Voting: Jim said the time had come to ask for electronic voting at TM, for three reasons: 1) it would eliminate questions about voice votes, 2) it would record how each person voted, 3) it would bring TM into the 21st Century and thereby be a good public relations tool for bolstering the institution of TM. Peggy noted it would probably save time as well. Mary expressed concern about the cost and also recommended it be tested at the start of the first TM before continuing. Jim noted that Arlington and Brookline are using it and finding it satisfactory. He said he will ask the Select Board to form a study committee this spring to get approval and get it into the capital budget for a TM appropriation. Pat noted it would be important to involve the school department to make sure they will continue to provide the Middle School auditorium as the venue in case the new system requires expensive wiring.

4. Feedback on Annual and Special Town Meetings: Mary asked if there were any complaints about seats or hearing issues; Jim said he had no comment to make and said he had no trouble hearing. Melissa suggested two screens for the auditorium for better viewing but Alan pointed out that would mean two projectors and be expensive. Peggy praised Jim's clear explanations of the rules at each meeting, and we all agreed. We discussed changes requested by the presenters in the order of presenting articles. Jim tries to discourage such changes but is willing to accommodate those who can only come on a particular date. He noted the order of the articles is created by the Select Board who traditionally puts petition articles last. Pat and Melissa both suggested grouping them by topic. Nonny noted that the Finance Committee changed its practice in this regard after much reluctance. Jim said he was very frustrated by those with petition articles who wanted them heavily revised after their acceptance by the Select Board, and noted the articles were not carefully thought out when submitted. Peggy suggested we emphasize working things out ahead of time, and Mary said there is advice on the website. Jim advised that the language be clear at the time the petitions for signing were handed out.

5. Evaluation of TMCC Events: Mary said eight people commented we need a new form of government though none were TM members. Others noted the glare from lights, which comes from the projector and affects tall people speaking at the podium. Alan noted there is no light board, just one switch for all.

Mary commented she thinks the Finance Committee, which is appointed by the Moderator, is not diverse enough and said she saw that in another town the FinCom report includes pros and cons of each issue, which she liked. Jim Pistrang said he would leave and we thanked him very much for coming. We will discuss the written evaluations of TMCC events at our next meeting.

6. Budget Update: The bill for the school bus was \$72.56. Our excellent driver was Rich Fuhrman. No dependent care reimbursements have come in yet. We will ask for a three-hole punch ease keeping records. Mary would prefer the Town print out everything on three-hole paper.

7. Survey Results: Mary gave Nonny and Melissa her long list of survey results for consolidation. We will discuss them at the next meeting.

8. Meetings with Others: Walter Wolnik said he would like to attend our meetings.

9. Minutes of April 23: Discussion postponed.

10. Scheduling of Future Meetings: Tuesday, June 24, 3 PM, and Wednesday, July 16, 1:30 PM.

11. Topics the Chair did not reasonably anticipate 48 hours before the meeting: None.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 PM.

Submitted by Patricia Holland, Clerk.

Documents Distributed:

Agenda

Draft of TMCC minutes of 4/23/14

Evaluations of Warrant Review, Precinct Meetings, Bus Tour, Orientation

Draft of TMCC Survey Comments